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THE PUNISHER 2099
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TOM MORGAN 11-93
DIRECT EDITION

HIS FAMILY WAS MURDERED BY A PSYCHOPATH IN AN AGE WHERE JUSTICE CAN BE BOUGHT AND NO ONE BELIEVES IN OLD-FASHIONED *PUNISHMENT* ANYMORE... NO ONE EXCEPT *JAKE GALLOWS*... A WEAPONS SPECIALIST IN THE *PUBLIC EYE* POLICE FORCE BY DAY, AT NIGHT HE IS INCORRUPTIBLE JUSTICE. STAN LEE PRESENTS:

THE PUNISHER 2099

SORRY... ABOUT THE WAIT, JIGSAW... BUT I'VE GOT A LOT ON MY PLATE...
PUT THIS RESTRAINT-HARNESS ON... IT'S TIME TO GO.
OKAY... OKAY, PUNISHER... BUT BEFORE I GO TO THE CHAIR, I'VE JUST GOT ONE REQUEST...
I DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING FOR YOU, MURDERER... BUT WHAT IS IT, ANYWAY?
WELL, NOW I'M FACING THE END, I'M LOOKING BACK OVER MY WHOLE LIFE AND... AND ALL THE *TERRIBLE* THINGS I'VE DONE...
I-I FEEL SO ASHAMED...
COULD YOU GET ME A MINISTER?
MINISTER...? I DON'T BUY THIS... WHAT RELIGION WERE YOU EVER IN?
I.F.O.... CHURCH OF THE IDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT.
THERE ARE NO I.F.O. FOURTH ENCOUNTERISTS HERE...

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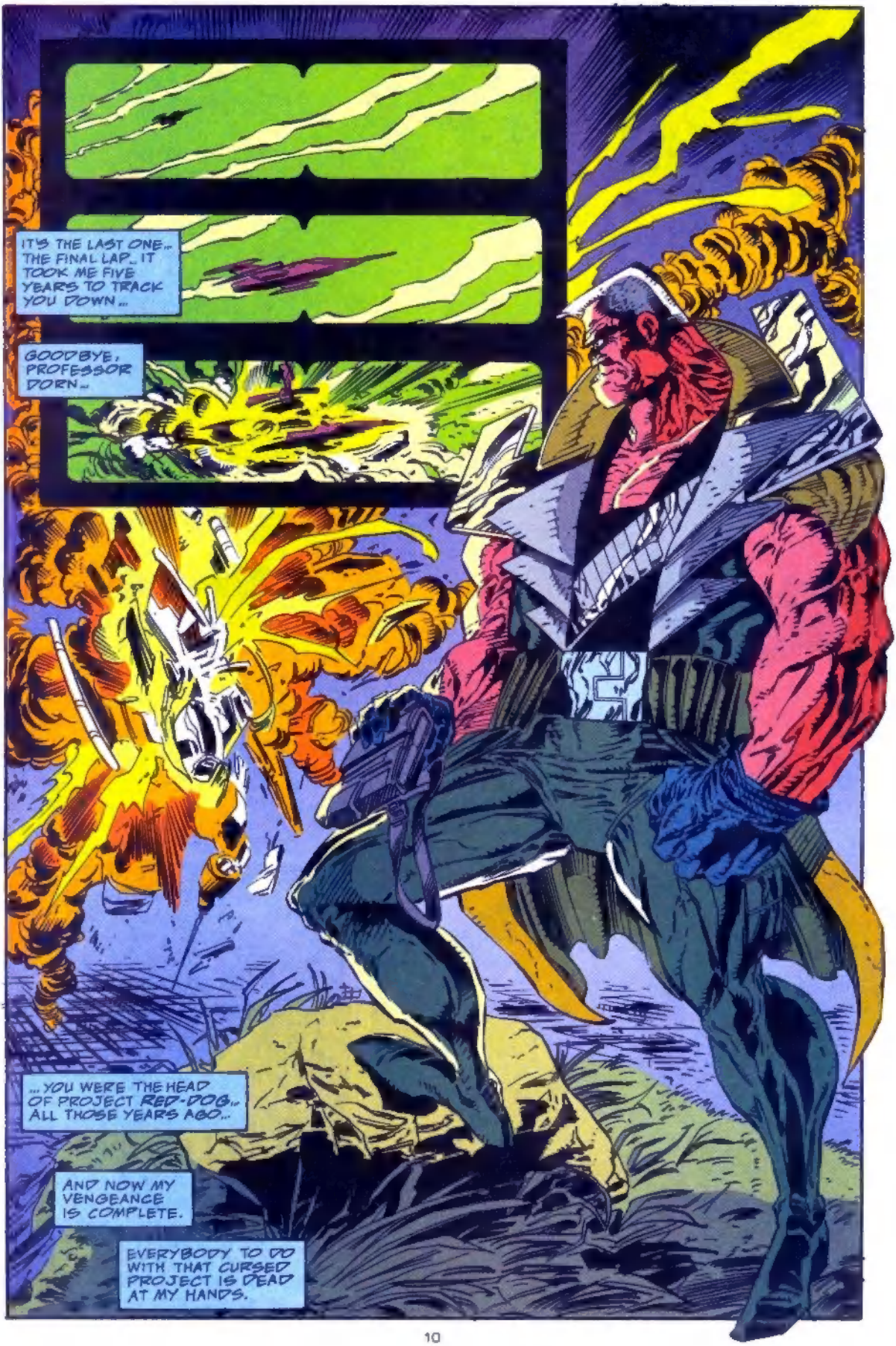
OH, YES, THERE ARE!
WHO THE--?
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF, PUNISHER... I AM FEARMASTER DARRYL KING--THE ONE YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR...
MMMMFFF!
YES--THAT'S RIGHT--THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR KERRY'S DEATH...!

...AND WHO WILL BE SUPERVISING YOUR EXECUTION!
TAKE HIM TO THE DEATH CELL.
FRY HIM SLOW, GUYS!
HEY--LET ME OUT! I WANNA WATCH!
HOW DOES IT FEEL, MAN? FRIGHTENED? I WOULD BE!
HURRR! HURR! HURRR!
PUBLIC ENEMY FILE
PART ONE
RED DOG DAY
PAT MILLS & TONY SKINNER — WRITERS
TOM MORGAN — PENCILER
KEITH WILLIAMS — INKER
PHIL FELIX — LETTERER
IAN LAUGHLIN — COLORIST
JOEY CAVALIERI — PUBLIC ENEMY
TOM DEFALCO — PUNISHER IN CHIEF

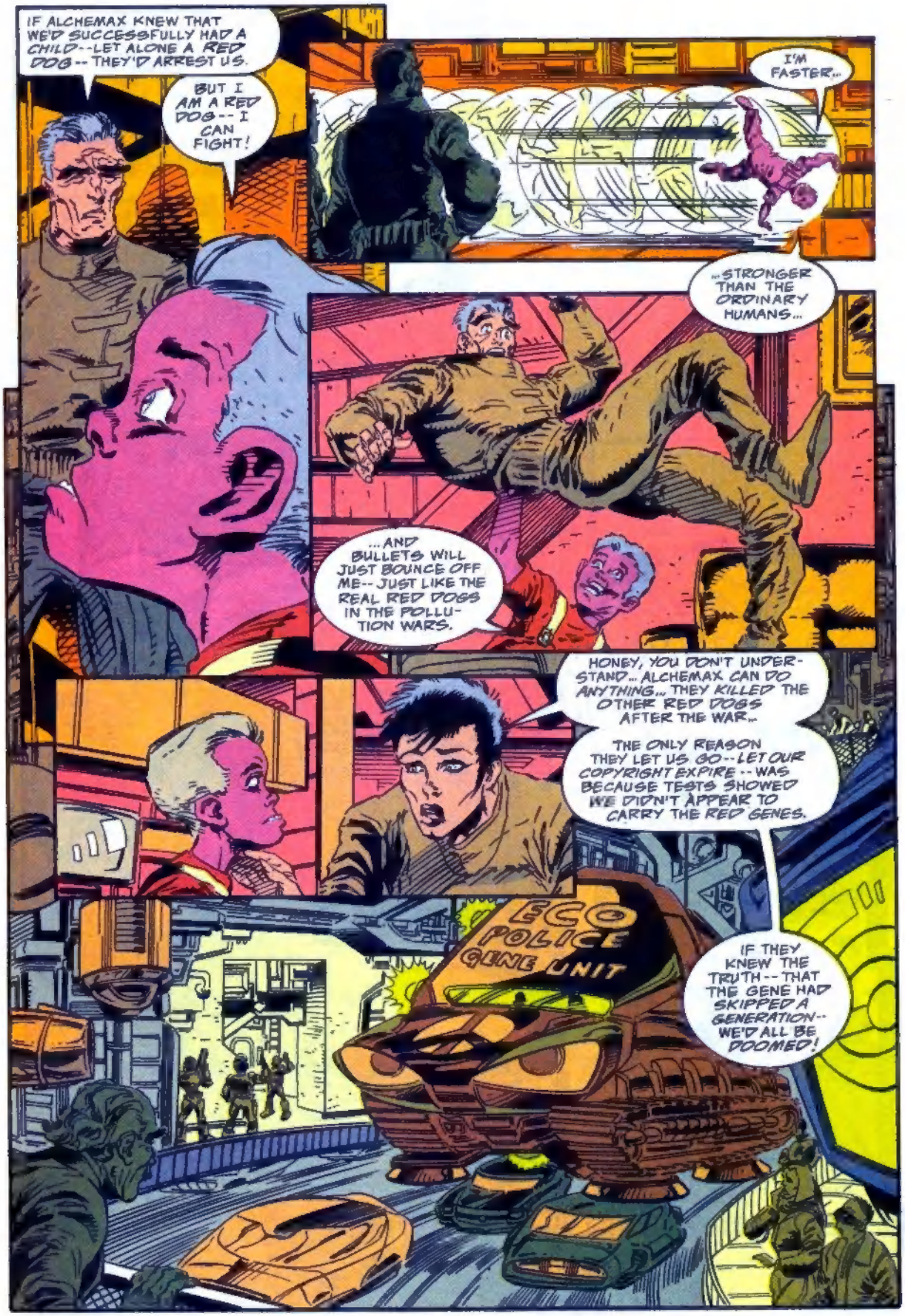
YO, GUYS! IF YOU'RE GOING TO BURN THE PUNISHER YOU'D BETTER LET US OUT NOW!
YEAH-- OTHER-WISE WE'LL STARVE IN HERE!
HADN'T THOUGHT OF THAT.
BONUS!
NO DOUBT YOU'RE WONDERING HOW I ACCOMPLISHED ALL THIS, PUNISHER...
WELL, I KNEW MY SIMIAN FRIEND HERE WOULD LOSE AGAIN-- HE ALWAYS DOES...
SO, TO FIND YOU, ALL I HAD TO DO WAS PUT A LOCATER DEVICE IN HIM...
...AND TO ONE GIFTED SUCH AS I, YOUR WALLS AND SECURITY SYSTEMS PRESENT NO CHALLENGE AT ALL.
YOU'VE BECOME AN IRRITANT IN OUR PLANS, PUNISHER... YOU WERE GETTING IN THE WAY OF THE CYBER-NOSTRA AND THE PUBLIC EYE...
...AND, CONSIDERING I'M THE REAL HEAD OF BOTH, YOU'VE NO IDEA HOW ANNOYING THAT IS.

YOU KILLED KERRY! YOU KILLED KERRY!
KRAK!
I CAN UNDERSTAND YOUR GRIEF-- BUT LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE...
RRRIP
YOU MURDERING @#%&¢!!
...YOU'LL BE JOINING HER IN A FEW MINUTES.
AAGHH!
PATHETIC. STRAP THIS RIDICULOUS NEANDERTHAL INTO HIS PRECIOUS CHAIR!
THIS IS THE BIT I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR-WARD TO!
GOT NOTHIN' CLEVER TO SAY NOW, EH, PUNISHER?

HOLD, YOU FOOL! HE'S FAR TOO CALM FOR MY LIKING...
LET ME EXAMINE THE SWITCH.
THERE'S A SENSORY SURFACE TO THIS MECHANISM... MUST BE KEYED TO HIS OWN PALM PRINT...!
YOU'D HAVE KILLED US ALL, YOU IDIOT!
TIME TO FRY!
OH, NO! SO WHAT DO WE DO, BOSS?
IT'S SIMPLE... CUT OFF HIS HAND.
DON'T WORRY, PUNISHER... THIS TANTO WILL SLICE THROUGH QUICK AND CLEAN...
...AND THEN YOU FRY!
AGHHH!
HHH!


IT'S THE LAST ONE... THE FINAL LAP... IT TOOK ME FIVE YEARS TO TRACK YOU DOWN...
GOODBYE, PROFESSOR DORN...
...YOU WERE THE HEAD OF PROJECT RED-DOG... ALL THOSE YEARS AGO...
AND NOW MY VENGEANCE IS COMPLETE.
EVERYBODY TO DO WITH THAT CURSED PROJECT IS DEAD AT MY HANDS.

YET -- WHY AM I STILL BURNING WITH ANGER INSIDE?
I'VE FINALLY AVENGED MY PARENTS' MURDER... AND THE MURDER OF ALL THE RED DOGS...
YET THERE'S NO SENSE OF SATISFACTION.
I'M POSSESSED WITH THE NEED TO KILL AND KILL AGAIN... AND AGAIN!
IT'S ALMOST AS THOUGH THE REAL CULPRITS HAVE ESCAPED... BUT THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE...
I'VE ELIMINATED EVERYONE TO DO WITH THE PROJECT.
EVERYONE WHO OWNED MY PARENTS...
BUT, MOM... POP... WHY CAN'T I LEAVE THE APARTMENT?
SABER, WE'VE TOLD YOU A HUNDRED TIMES; EVEN THOUGH WE'RE OUT OF COPYRIGHT AND NO LONGER BELONG TO ALCHEMAX...
... WE'RE STILL OFFICIALLY DEGENS. ALTHOUGH, THANKFULLY, NOT AS MUTATED AS SOME OF THE OTHERS.

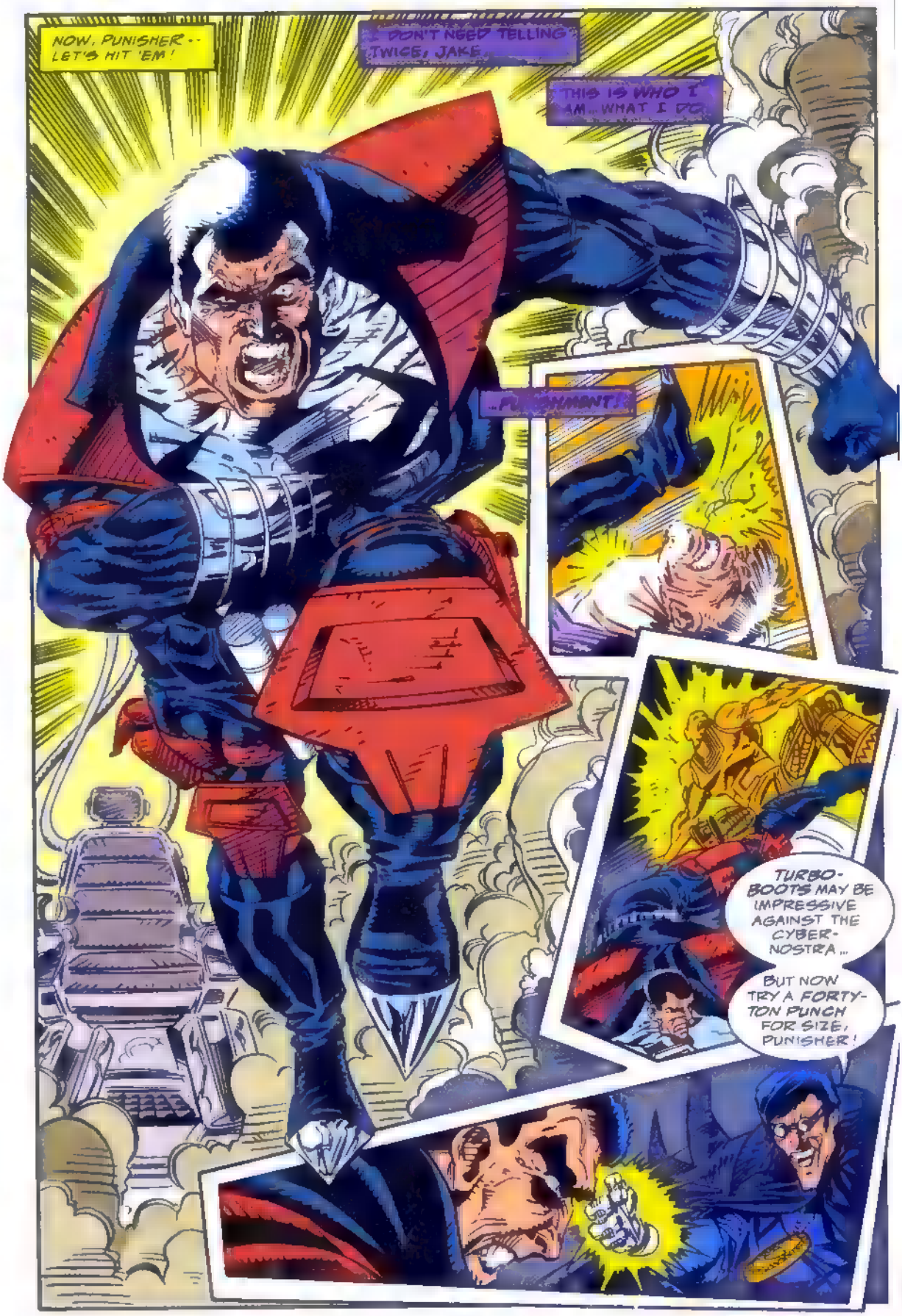

IF ALCHEMAX KNEW THAT WE'D SUCCESSFULLY HAD A CHILD--LET ALONE A RED DOG -- THEY'D ARREST US.
BUT I AM A RED DOG -- I CAN FIGHT!
I'M FASTER...
...STRONGER THAN THE ORDINARY HUMANS...
...AND BULLETS WILL JUST BOUNCE OFF ME-- JUST LIKE THE REAL RED DOGS IN THE POLLUTION WARS.
HONEY, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND... ALCHEMAX CAN DO ANYTHING... THEY KILLED THE OTHER RED DOGS AFTER THE WAR...
THE ONLY REASON THEY LET US GO -- LET OUR COPYRIGHT EXPIRE -- WAS BECAUSE TESTS SHOWED WE DIDN'T APPEAR TO CARRY THE RED GENES.
ECO POLICE GENE UNIT
IF THEY KNEW THE TRUTH -- THAT THE GENE HAD SKIPPED A GENERATION-- WE'D ALL BE DOOMED!

THOMP!
THOMP!
ECO POLICE! OPEN UP! YOU HAVE TEN SECONDS TO COMPLY!
THOMP!
THOMP!
QUICK, SABER-- IN THE ESCAPE CHUTE... JUST LIKE WE PLANNED.
BUT, DAD-- LET ME STAY AND HELP! I'LL FIGHT THEM!
WE'LL [redacted]
OKAY, HONEY-- WE HAVE STATUS NOW... OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS WILL STAND BY US.
NOW GO QUICKLY!
KR-KRASH
BANNOCK AND HOLLI HAGEN, YOU ARE BEING REQUISITIONED BY ALCHEMAX GENE CONTROL!
REQUISITIONED? BUT WE'RE PEOPLE NOW... WE'RE OUT OF COPYRIGHT.
YOU CAN'T DO THIS! WHERE'S YOUR AUTHORITY?

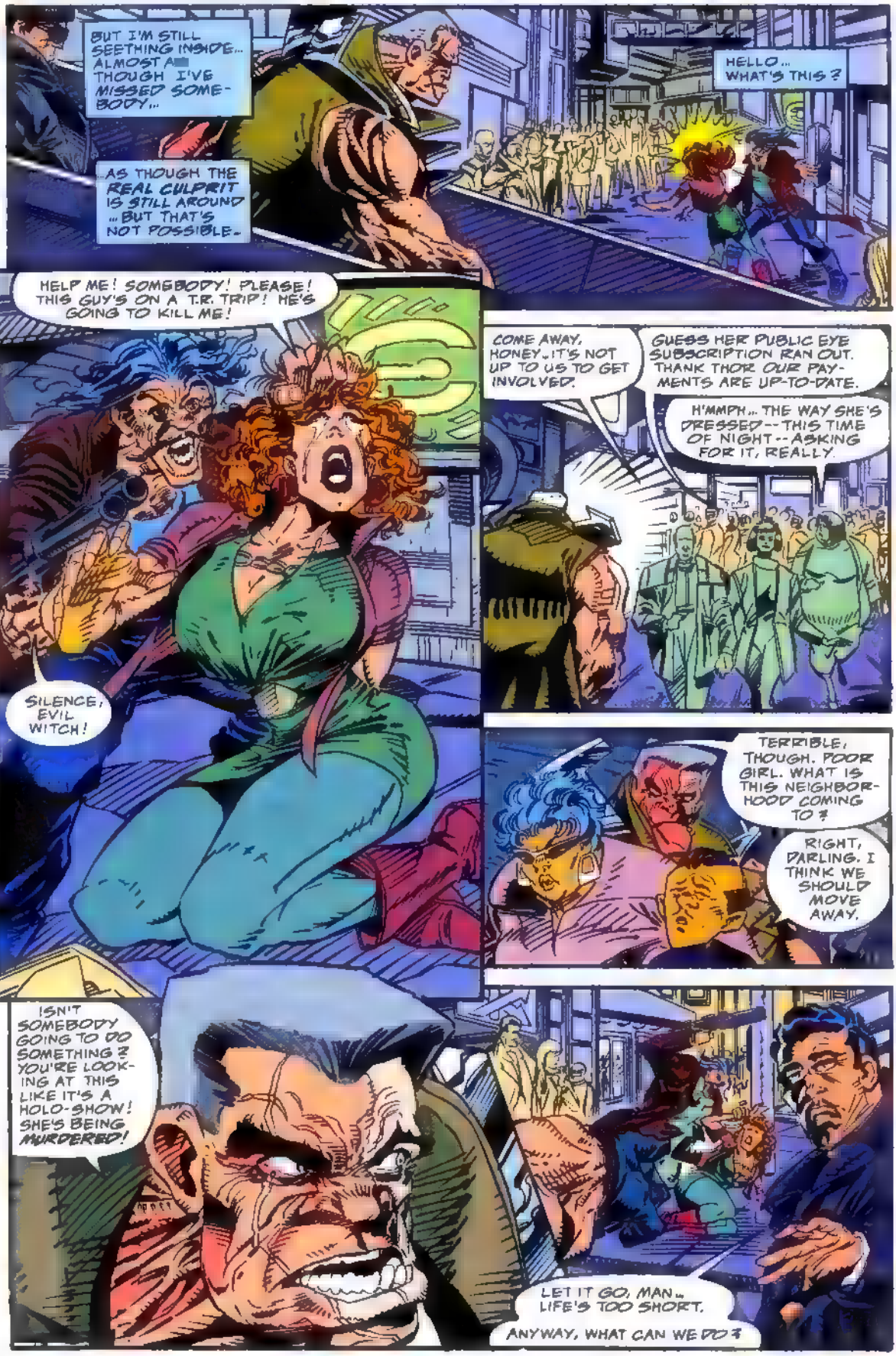
MY PARENTS WERE DRAGGED AWAY... CALLING TO FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS FOR HELP...
EVERYONE KNEW THAT THE ECO COPS WERE WRONG... WERE BREAKING THE LAW...
BUT BECAUSE THEY WERE "THE AUTHORITIES"--NO ONE LIFTED A FINGER... OR EVEN SPOKE OUT IN PROTEST.
HELP! SALLI! JONN!
COME AWAY, HONEY... THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO...
THANK THOR WE'RE NOT DEGENS!
I HAD TO DO SOMETHING... I LEFT MY HIDING PLACE...
PLEASE--SOMEBODY... HELP THEM!
WHO'S THIS STRANGE RED LITTLE BOY?
DON'T GET INVOLVED... WE WORK FOR ALCHEMAX, REMEMBER?
ONLY ONE PERSON IN THAT CROWD HELPED...
MY NAME'S MATT... MATT AXEL... COME WITH ME, SON... YOU'LL BE SAFE.

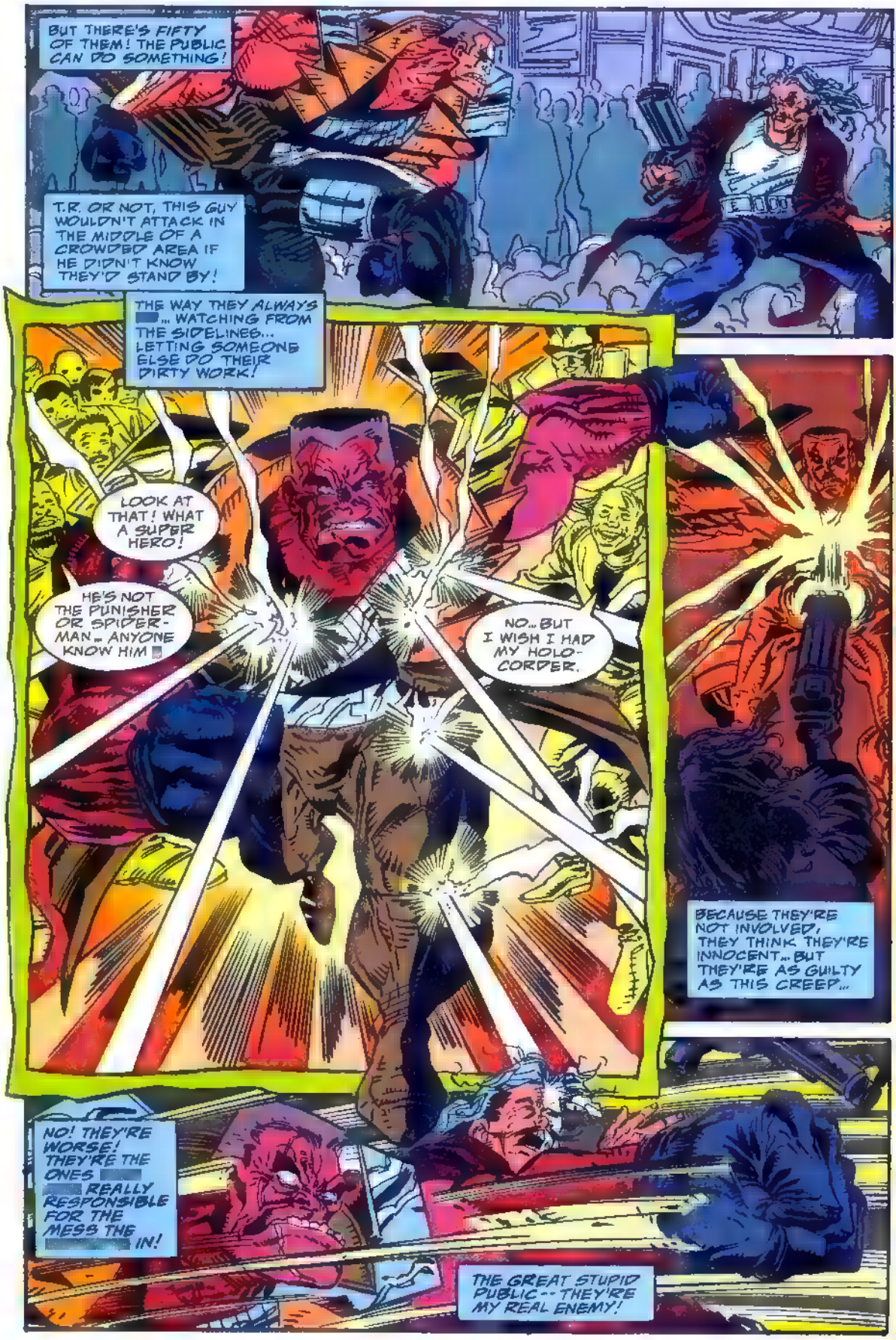
[redacted] PAIN..! BUT GOTTA KEEP SILENT.. MY FAIL-SAFE MECHANISM IS ALSO VOICE-ACTIVATED [redacted] AN ENEMY'S VOICE..
KILLED BY YOUR OWN HAND.. WHOEVER THOUGHT THE PUNISHER WOULD COMMIT SUICIDE ?
CROSSING THE FEARMASTER IS SUICIDE.
JAKE-- THIS IS THE PUNISHER.. LET ME TAKE OVER COMPLETELY .. I DON'T FEEL PAIN.. I CAN HANDLE THIS SITUATION..
NO..! WE SHARE THIS BODY.. CAN'T LET YOU TAKE COMPLETE CONTROL, PUNISHER!
STRONG AND SILENT, HUH..? OKAY..
..TIME TO DIE!
HUUUH ?

IT'S BOOBY-TRAPPED! GONNA FRY ME! ONE CHANCE --TO HIT THE OVERDRIVE ON MY UNIT!
UUHN! TR-TRY TO ABSORB THE ENERGY...
...AND REDIRECT IT--
YAAHH!


NOW, PUNISHER -- LET'S HIT 'EM!
I DON'T NEED TELLING TWICE, JAKE.
THIS IS WHO I AM... WHAT I DO.
...PUNISHMENT!
TURBO-BOOTS MAY BE IMPRESSIVE AGAINST THE CYBER-NOSTRA...
BUT NOW TRY A FORTY-TON PUNCH FOR SIZE, PUNISHER!

MATT AXEL TOOK ME IN... HID ME FROM THE WORLD... HE WAS LIKE A FATHER TO ME...
HE HAD SUCH SYMPATHY FOR US DEGENS. THAT HE FOUNDED A HOSTEL... WHERE WE WERE OFFERED SANCTUARY...
THOSE OF US WHO WERE MORE NORMAL BECAME HIS STAFF AND HELPED THOSE WHO WERE SERIOUSLY AFFLICTED.
BUT IT WAS [redacted] LATE FOR MY PARENTS... PROFESSOR DORN AT ALCHEMAX DECIDED TO REVIEW THE RED DOG PROGRAM AND RECALLED THE GENETIC STOCK, REGARDLESS OF COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT...
TO HIM, THEY WEREN'T PEOPLE, JUST A COMMODITY, ALL RIGHTS OWNED...
THEY BOTH DIED UNDER THE EXPERIMENTAL KNIFE IN SEPARATE LABS...
WELL, NOT EXACTLY DIED... BUT WHAT WAS LEFT WASN'T MOM ANYMORE...
WHEN I WAS OLD ENOUGH TO LEAVE THE HOSTEL, I SET OUT TO AVENGE THEM.
IT TOOK ME FIVE YEARS, BUT I TRACKED DOWN AND KILLED EVERYONE CONCERNED WITH PROJECT RED-DOG.
MARX
SPOZ


BUT I'M STILL SEETHING INSIDE... ALMOST AS THOUGH I'VE MISSED SOMEBODY...
...AS THOUGH THE REAL CULPRIT IS STILL AROUND ...BUT THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE...
HELLO... WHAT'S THIS?
HELP ME! SOMEBODY! PLEASE! THIS GUY'S ON A T.R. TRIP! HE'S GOING TO KILL ME!
SILENCE, EVIL WITCH!
COME AWAY, HONEY...IT'S NOT UP TO US TO GET INVOLVED.
GUESS HER PUBLIC EYE SUBSCRIPTION RAN OUT. THANK THOR OUR PAYMENTS ARE UP-TO-DATE.
H'MMPH... THE WAY SHE'S DRESSED--THIS TIME OF NIGHT--ASKING FOR IT, REALLY.
TERRIBLE, THOUGH. POOR GIRL. WHAT IS THIS NEIGHBORHOOD COMING TO?
RIGHT, DARLING. I THINK WE SHOULD MOVE AWAY.
ISN'T SOMEBODY GOING TO DO SOMETHING? YOU'RE LOOKING AT THIS LIKE IT'S A HOLO-SHOW! SHE'S BEING MURDERED!
LET IT GO, MAN... LIFE'S TOO SHORT.
ANYWAY, WHAT CAN WE DO?


BUT THERE'S FIFTY OF THEM! THE PUBLIC CAN DO SOMETHING!
T.R. OR NOT, THIS GUY WOULDN'T ATTACK IN THE MIDDLE OF A CROWDED AREA IF HE DIDN'T KNOW THEY'D STAND BY!
THE WAY THEY ALWAYS [redacted]... WATCHING FROM THE SIDELINES... LETTING SOMEONE ELSE DO THEIR DIRTY WORK!
LOOK AT THAT! WHAT A SUPER HERO!
HE'S NOT THE PUNISHER OR SPIDER-MAN... ANYONE KNOW HIM [redacted]
NO... BUT I WISH I HAD MY HOLO-CORDER.
BECAUSE THEY'RE NOT INVOLVED, THEY THINK THEY'RE INNOCENT... BUT THEY'RE AS GUILTY AS THIS CREEP...
NO! THEY'RE WORSE! THEY'RE THE ONES [redacted] REALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MESS THE [redacted] IN!
THE GREAT STUPID PUBLIC -- THEY'RE MY REAL ENEMY!

WOW! BULLETS BOUNCE OFF HIM.. AND HIS COLORING.. SO CHIC!
I THINK HE'S ONE OF THOSE RED DOGS USED IN THE WAR..
I'VE ALWAYS HATED THE PUBLIC... THEY'RE LIKE SHEEP... A THOUSAND OF THEM WOULD NEVER TURN ON THE DOG THAT ATTACKS THEM.
AND WHEN ONE GETS KILLED, THEY ALL JUST BLEAT STUPIDLY.
WELL, I COULDN'T SAVE MY PARENTS, BUT I DID SAVE THIS WOMAN..
LADY.. GET OUT OF HERE FAST.. GO HOME..
NEON CLUB
AND TAKE MY ADVICE.. TOMORROW MORNING.. BUY A GUN.
'RAAAAYY!
WHAT A HERO!
WHAT'S YOUR NAME? CAN I HAVE YOUR AUTO-GRAPH?
THANK THE STARS FOR PEOPLE LIKE YOU!
SHUT UP, SHEEP! SHUT UP!

HEY, DON'T BE SHY, FELLA... WHAT'S YOUR NAME...? YOU'RE A REGULAR HER-- AAAAHHH!
YOU WANT MY NAME... TRY...
PUBLIC ENEMY!

SLAM
AAAAGH!
AND WHEN YOU GET UP, I'M GOING TO KEEP DOING THIS UNTIL YOU STOP BREATHING!
FUNNY-- I HAD THE SAME PLAN!
UUUHH! I'VE BEEN STRUCK!

USED MY ARMOR TO SEAL THE WOUND... NOW TO FINISH HIM OFF.
THERE'S BLOOD ON MY CLOTHES!
I'VE WAITED A LONG TIME FOR THIS, MURDERER...
THIS IS FOR YOU, KERRY!
IT'S NOT ENOUGH, HONEY... BUT IT'S A START...
I'VE GOT A MAGIC HAND, TOO, FEARMASTER... THE ONLY ONE I'VE GOT LEFT...
AND IT'S GONNA TURN YOU INTO BLOODY PULP!
I THINK NOT!
I COULD TURN YOU INTO DUST JUST AS EASILY AS I DID THAT BRICK!

HOWEVER, PERSONAL VIOLENCE ISN'T MY PREFERENCE...
I'LL DEAL WITH YOU ANOTHER DAY.
HE TURNED THE WALL INTO PAPER..! WELL, THAT AIN'T GONNA SAVE HIS SORRY BUTT.
OOF! NOW IT'S TRANSFORMED INTO STEEL!
BUT NOW I KNOW EXACTLY WHO YOU ARE... AND WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE, I'M COMING AFTER YOU...!
THIS IS IT, FEARMASTER...
THE FINAL CURTAIN!